



# CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

June 2, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my concern about reductions in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding levels for the areas most at-risk in the Homeland Security Grant Program for 2006. It seems to me the New York City Metropolitan Area and Washington D.C. should not have their funding reduced by such a wide margin due to the inherent risks these major cities face.

In P.L. 109-90, Congress required the Department to use risk factors in awarding portions of these grants, and I am concerned about any risk criteria DHS would use that would increase funding for such areas as Omaha, Charlotte, Louisville and Kansas City, while decreasing funding for our most at-risk cities.

As the 9/11 Commission said, we are in a war with Islamist terrorists. They are not ethereal beings and they don't attack just any target. They attack high-impact targets and that is what we need to protect with our homeland security dollars.

On March 25, 2006, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and I introduced H.R. 5017, the Ensuring Implementation of the 9/11 Commission Report Act to bring renewed focus to the 9/11 Commission Recommendations. Among other important provisions, H.R. 5017 contains language of H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act. This legislation, passed by the House last year, would require the distribution of homeland security funding based upon an assessment of risk and vulnerability and includes a 0.25 percent base level for all states.

Congressman  
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By ensuring more homeland security dollars go to the New York Metropolitan Area, by far the greatest risk in our nation, we help protect residents, as well as many thousands of commuters and visitors to that city.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher Shays  
Member of Congress

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